

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Apparatus for inhibiting the theft of portable equipment having an external wall provided with a specially designed slot having preselected dimensions wherein the external wall has an inner surface, comprising:

5 an attachment mechanism including means for attaching a flexible securing device to said attachment mechanism;

10 means, attachable to said attachment mechanism, for engaging the slot to secure said attachment mechanism proximate the external wall; and

15 a flexible securing device to be secured to an object external to the equipment and adapted to be secured to said attaching means of said attachment mechanism, wherein attachment of the equipment to said object inhibits theft of the equipment.

20 2. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said flexible securing device is a cable.

25 3. An apparatus as claimed in claim 2 wherein said cable dead ends into and is permanently fixed to the attachment mechanism.

4. An apparatus as claimed in claim 2 wherein said attachment mechanism includes a base portion and an attachment member connected to said base portion, said attachment member having an aperture sized to permit said cable to pass through the aperture.

30 5. An apparatus as claimed in claim 4 wherein said attachment member is hingably connected to said base portion.

35 6. An apparatus as claimed in claim 5 further including a screw for engaging with an aperture in said base portion of the attachment mechanism, said slot being sized to engage with said screw, wherein said attachment member being

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directly couplable to said external wall by inserting said screw through said aperture and into said slot.

7. An apparatus as claimed in claim 2 wherein said
5 attachment mechanism includes a housing having an aperture,
said aperture being sized to permit said cable to pass through
the aperture.

8. An apparatus as claimed in claim 7 wherein said
10 engaging means includes an engagement member having peripheral
dimensions, the peripheral dimensions of the engagement member
conforming closely to the dimensions of the slot, said
engagement member being movable between a first position in
which said engagement member is insertable into said slot and a
15 second position in which said engagement member engages said
inner surface of said external wall within said slot.

9. An apparatus as claimed in claim 8 wherein said
engaging means further includes a spindle having a first
20 portion rotatably mounted within said housing and a shaft fixed
to the first portion and extending outwardly from the housing,
said engagement member being integral with the shaft at a
distal end of the shaft, so that in the first position of the
engagement member said engagement member is insertable into the
25 slot, said spindle being rotatable 90 degrees to position said
engagement member in said second position so that said
engagement member is misaligned with the slot and engages the
inner surface of the external wall.

30 10. An apparatus as claimed in claim 9 further
including means for preventing rotation of said housing when
said engagement member is in said second position.

11. An apparatus as claimed in claim 10 wherein said
35 means for preventing rotation includes abutment means emanating
from a lower end of the housing having a cross-sectional
dimension, the cross-sectional dimension of the abutment means
and the shaft of the spindle in combination conforming closely

to the dimensions of the slot, said abutment means and said shaft being insertable into the slot in said first position with the engagement member aligned with the abutment means, said spindle being rotatable 90 degrees to said second position 5 in which said engagement member is misaligned with said slot and said abutment means and the shaft occupy the slot.

12. An apparatus as claimed in claim 11 further including means for retaining said engagement member in said 10 second position, said means for retaining said engagement member in said second position comprising a locking element including a locking mechanism integral with said first portion of the spindle and engagable with the housing, and a key adapted to selectively actuate the locking mechanism to prevent 15 rotation of the spindle.

13. An apparatus as claimed in claim 11 further including means for retaining said engagement member in said second position, said means for retaining said engagement 20 member in said second position comprising a transverse aperture in said housing, said first portion of said spindle including an aperture aligned with the aperture in the housing when the engagement member is in said second position, said flexible securing device adapted to extend through both the aperture in 25 the housing and the aperture in the spindle to prevent rotation of the spindle.

14. Apparatus for inhibiting theft of portable equipment having an external wall provided with a specially 30 designed slot having preselected dimensions wherein said external wall has an inner surface and an outer surface, comprising:

an attachment mechanism including means for attaching a flexible securing device to said attachment mechanism; 35 means, attachable to said attachment mechanism, for engaging the slot to secure said attachment mechanism proximate the external wall, said engaging means having first and second engagement portions being movable between a first position in

which said engagement portions are insertable within said slot and a second position in which said engagement portions engage said inner surface of said external wall proximate said slot; and

5 a flexible securing device to be secured to an object external to the equipment and adapted to be secured to said attaching means of said attachment mechanism, wherein attachment of the equipment to said object inhibits theft of the equipment.

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15. An apparatus as claimed in claim 14 wherein said flexible securing device is a cable.

16. An apparatus as claimed in claim 15 wherein said 15 attachment mechanism includes a housing and said attachment means includes a transverse aperture in said housing sized to permit said cable to pass therethrough to secure the housing to the cable.

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17. An apparatus as claimed in claim 16 wherein said engaging means is integrally attached to said housing.

18. An apparatus as claimed in claim 17 wherein said engaging means is injection molded.

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19. An apparatus as claimed in claim 17 wherein said engaging means is made from a resilient plastic material.

20. An apparatus as claimed in claim 17 wherein said 30 engaging means further comprises a shaft integrally attached to a lower end of said housing and a base portion connected to said shaft, a length of said shaft being substantially equal to a thickness of the external wall, said first and second engagement portions comprising first and second, inwardly 35 angled side walls located on opposite sides of said base portion, said side walls being bendable to said first position so that said base portion and said shaft are insertable into said slot, said side walls being spreadable back to said second

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position so that said base portion engages said inner surface of said external wall proximate said slot and the shaft occupies the slot.

5 21. An apparatus as claimed in claim 16 wherein said housing further includes a first, open end sized to slidably receive said engaging means therein, said opening extending to a second, closed end.

10 22. An apparatus as claimed in claim 21 wherein said
engaging means further comprises an engagement member including
an upper portion having an aperture and first and second,
spaced apart engagement arms connected to said upper portion,
said first and second engagement portions being integrally
15 connected to said engagement arms at a distal end of the arms,
a length of the arms ~~external~~ the housing when said engagement
member is completely received in the housing being
substantially equal to a thickness of the external wall, said
arms being bendable to said first position in which said
20 engagement portions and said arms external said housing are
insertable within said slot, said arms spreading out to said
second position wherein said engagement portions engage said
inner surface of the wall and said arms occupy the slot.

25 23. An apparatus as claimed in claim 21 wherein said
engaging means further comprises an engagement member having
first and second, spaced apart engagement arms connected at a
proximal end of the engagement member and defining a cable
clearance space between the arms sized to permit said cable to
30 pass therethrough, said first and second engagement portions
being integrally connected to said engagement arms at a distal
end of the arms, a length of the arms external the housing when
said engagement member is completely received in the housing
being substantially equal to a thickness of the external wall,
35 said arms being bendable to said first position in which said
engagement portions and said arms external said housing are
insertable within said slot, said arms spreading out to said

second position wherein said engagement portions engage said inner surface of the wall and said arms occupy the slot.

24. An apparatus as claimed in claim 22 wherein said engaging means further includes an abutment surface integral with said upper portion of the engagement member proximate an upper end of said aperture, said abutment surface engaging said cable when said cable is inserted through both the transverse aperture in the housing and the aperture in the upper portion 10 of the engagement member with said engagement member completely within said housing to secure said housing to said engagement member.

25. An apparatus as claimed in claim 23 further including an abutment surface at the proximal end of said engagement member for engaging said cable when said engagement member is completely received within said open end of the housing and said cable is inserted through both the transverse aperture in the housing and the cable clearance space between 20 the arms to secure said housing to said engagement member.

27. An apparatus as claimed in claim 16 wherein said housing further includes a bottom end having a threaded hole sized to receive a screw therethrough.

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28. An apparatus as claimed in claim 27 wherein said engaging means further includes an engagement member having an upper portion including an aperture sized to allow said screw to pass therethrough and first and second, spaced apart 30 engagement arms fixed to said upper portion defining a clearance space between the arms coupled to said aperture, a length of the arms being substantially equal to a thickness of the external wall, said first and second engagement portions being connected to the arms at a distal end of the arms, said 35 engagement arms and said first and second engagement portions being insertable into said slot in said first position, said arms being spreadable to said second position upon insertion of said screw through said hole in the housing, said aperture in

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the upper portion of the engaging means and said clearance space, wherein said engagement portions engage said inner surface of the external wall to secure the housing proximate the wall.

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29. An apparatus as claimed in claim 15 wherein said attachment mechanism includes an attachment member having an upper portion and a base portion connected to said upper portion, said attaching means including an aperture in said upper portion sized to permit said cable to pass therethrough.

30. An apparatus as claimed in claim 29 further including a housing having a transverse aperture through top and bottom walls of said housing sized to permit said upper portion of said attachment member to pass therethrough, said housing further including an opening in a first end wall extending to a second, spaced apart closed end wall, said opening being sized to slidably receive said engaging means therein.

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31. An apparatus as claimed in claim 30 wherein said engaging means further comprises an engagement member having first and second, spaced apart engagement arms connected to a transverse member at a proximal end of the arms and defining a clearance space between said engagement arms and said transverse member adapted to permit said first portion of said attachment member to pass therethrough, said engagement portions being connected to said arms at a distal end of the arms, a length of the arms external the housing being substantially equal to a thickness of the external wall when said engagement member is completely received within said housing and said transverse member abuts said closed end of the housing, said arms being bendable to said first position in which said engagement portions and said arms are insertable within said slot, said arms spreading out to said second position wherein said engagement portions engage said inner surface of the wall and said arms occupy the slot.

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32. An apparatus as claimed in claim 31 further including an abutment surface at a lower end of said transverse member for engaging with said first portion of the attachment member when said transverse member abuts said closed end of the housing and said first portion of said attachment member is inserted through said aperture in the housing and within said clearance space to thereby secure said engagement member to the attachment member.

10 33. Apparatus for inhibiting theft of portable
equipment having an external wall provided with a specially
designed generally rectangular slot having preselected
dimensions wherein said external wall has an inner surface,
comprising:

15 an attachment mechanism including a housing and means
for attaching a flexible securing device to said housing;

means, attachable to said housing, for engaging the slot to secure said housing proximate the external wall including an engagement member having peripheral dimensions,

20 said engaging means being rotatable between a first position in which said engagement member is insertable within said slot and a second position in which said engagement member engages said inner surface of said external wall within said slot;

means for preventing rotation of said housing when
25 said engagement member is in said second position;

means for retaining said engagement member in said second position; and

a flexible securing device to be secured to an object external to the equipment and adapted to be secured to said attaching means of said housing, wherein attachment of the equipment to said object inhibits theft of the equipment.

34. An apparatus as claimed in claim 33 wherein said flexible securing device is a cable.

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35. An apparatus as claimed in claim 34 wherein said attaching means includes an aperture in said housing sized to permit said cable to pass therethrough.

36. An apparatus as claimed in claim 35 wherein said engaging means is integrally attached to a lower portion of said housing.

5 37. An apparatus as claimed in claim 36 wherein said
engaging means further comprises a shaft, said engagement
member being integral with said shaft at a distal end of the
shaft, a length of the shaft being substantially equal to a
thickness of the external wall, the peripheral dimensions of
10 the engagement member conforming closely to the internal
dimensions of the slot so that in said first position said
engagement member and said shaft are insertable into the slot,
said housing being rotatable 90 degrees to position said
engagement member in said second position wherein said
15 engagement member is misaligned with the slot so that said
engagement member engages the inner surface of the external
wall and said shaft occupies a portion of said slot.

38. An apparatus as claimed in claim 37 wherein said
means for preventing rotation of said housing includes a screw
threadably engagable with a thread hole formed in a lower end
of said housing proximate said shaft, a length of the screw
external the housing being substantially equal to a thickness
of the external wall, the cross-sectional dimensions of the
screw external the housing and the shaft in combination closely
conforming to the dimensions of the slot so that when the
engagement member is in said second position, the screw is
insertable through said housing and into the slot proximate
said shaft to a position in which said screw external the
housing and said shaft occupy said slot.

39. An apparatus as claimed in claim 37 wherein said means for retaining said engagement member in said second position includes a screw threadably engagable with a thread hole formed in a lower end of said housing proximate said shaft, the length of the screw external the housing being substantially equal to the thickness of the external wall, the cross-sectional dimensions of the screw external the housing

and the shaft in combination closely conforming to the dimensions of the slot so that when the engagement member is in said second position, the screw is insertable through said housing and into the slot proximate said shaft to a position in 5 which said screw external the housing and said shaft occupy said slot.

40. An apparatus as claimed in claim 37 wherein said means for preventing rotation of said housing includes a 10 spindle having a first portion rotatably mountable within the housing and a spindle arm fixed to the first portion and extending outwardly from the housing proximate said shaft, a length of the arm external the housing being substantially equal to the thickness of the external wall, the cross- 15 sectional dimensions of the shaft and the arm in combination closely conforming to the dimensions of the slot so that when said engagement member is positioned in said second position, said arm is insertable into said slot to a position in which said arm and said shaft occupy said slot.

20 41. An apparatus as claimed in claim 40 wherein said means for retaining said engagement member in said second position includes an aperture formed through said first portion of said spindle, said spindle being rotatable within said 25 housing to a position in which said aperture in said first portion is aligned with said aperture in the housing, said cable being adapted to extend through both said aperture in the housing and said aperture in the first portion of the spindle so that said spindle is rigidly fixed to said housing to 30 prevent rotation of said spindle relative to said housing.

42. An apparatus as claimed in claim 35 wherein said engaging means further comprises a spindle having a first portion and a shaft fixed to the first portion, said engagement 35 member being integral with said shaft at a distal end of the shaft, a length of the shaft being substantially equal to a thickness of the external wall, the peripheral dimensions of the engagement member conforming closely to the internal

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dimensions of the slot so that in said first position said engagement member and said shaft are insertable into the slot, said spindle being rotatable 90 degrees to position said engagement member in said second position wherein said 5 engagement member is misaligned with the slot so that said engagement member engages the inner surface of the external wall and said shaft occupies a portion of said slot.

43. An apparatus as claimed in claim 42 wherein said 10 means for preventing rotation of said housing includes abutment means emanating from a lower end of the housing, said housing further including a spindle opening intermediate said abutment means and extending to a closed upper end of said housing, the 15 cross-sectional dimensions of the abutment means and the shaft of the spindle in combination closely conforming to the dimensions of the slot, said abutment means being insertable into the slot and the spindle being receivable in the opening in the housing when said engagement member is in said second position, the abutment means and the shaft of the spindle 20 occupying the slot to prevent rotation of the housing.

44. An apparatus as claimed in claim 43 wherein said means for retaining said engagement member in said second position includes an aperture formed through said first portion 25 of the spindle, said spindle being slidably received within the opening in said housing in said second position of the engagement member so that said aperture of the first portion of the spindle is aligned with the aperture in the housing, said cable being adapted to extend through both said aperture in the 30 housing and the aperture in the first portion of the spindle to rigidly fix said spindle to said housing to prevent rotation of said spindle relative to said housing.

45. An apparatus as claimed in claim 44 further 35 including at least one spring mounted to said lower end of the housing.

5 46. An apparatus as claimed in claim 42 wherein said first portion of said spindle is rotatably mounted within said housing with said shaft extending outwardly from a lower end of the housing, a length of the shaft external the housing being approximately equal to a thickness of the external wall.

10 47. An apparatus as claimed in claim 46 wherein said means for preventing rotation of said housing includes abutment means emanating from a lower end of the housing located on opposite sides of the shaft, the cross-sectional dimension of the abutment means and the shaft of the spindle in combination conforming closely to the dimensions of the slot, the shaft and the abutment means being insertable into the slot with said engagement member aligned with the abutment means in said first 15 position, said spindle being rotatable 90 degrees to said second position in which said engagement member is misaligned with said slot and the abutment means and the shaft occupy the slot.

20 48. An apparatus as claimed in claim 47 wherein said means for retaining said engagement member in said second position includes an aperture in said first portion of said spindle, said aperture of the first portion of the spindle being aligned with the aperture in the housing in said second 25 position of the engagement member, said cable being adapted to extend through both the aperture in the housing and the aperture in the first portion of the spindle to thereby affix said spindle to said housing to prevent rotation of said spindle relative to said housing.

30 49. An apparatus as claimed in claim 48 further including a spring mounted to a lower portion of said spindle for engaging with said lower end of the housing.

35 50. An apparatus as claimed in claim 46 wherein said means for preventing rotation of said housing includes first and second pins mounted on opposite sides of said slot and

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engagable with first and second pin holes in said lower end of said housing located on opposite sides of said shaft.

51. An apparatus as claimed in claim 50 wherein said
5 means for retaining said engagement member in said second
position includes an aperture formed through said first portion
of said spindle, said aperture of the first portion of the
spindle being aligned with the aperture in the housing when
said engagement member is in said second position, said cable
10 being adapted to extend through the aperture in the housing and
the aperture in the first portion of the spindle to thereby
affix said spindle to said housing to prevent rotation of said
spindle relative to said housing.

15 52. An apparatus as claimed in claim 48 wherein said
engaging means further includes a spring mounted to a lower end
of said first portion of the spindle.

53. A method for inhibiting theft of equipment such
20 as a personal computer including the steps of:
providing a specially designed slot having
preselected dimensions in an external wall of said equipment;
providing an attachment mechanism having means for
attaching a flexible securing device to said attachment
25 mechanism;
providing means attachable to said attachment
mechanism for engaging with said slot to secure said attachment
mechanism proximate the external wall; and
attaching a flexible securing device to both said
30 attachment mechanism and to an object external the equipment
wherein the attachment of the flexible securing device to the
attachment mechanism inhibits theft of the equipment.

54. An apparatus for inhibiting theft of portable equipment having an external wall provided with a specially designed generally rectangular slot having preselected dimensions wherein said external wall has an inner surface, comprising:

a base unit;

a remote unit including means for engaging the slot to secure said remote unit proximate to the external wall and including an indicator; and

5 means, electrically coupled to said base unit and to said remote unit, for detecting when said base unit and said remote unit have been moved apart from each other beyond a particular distance, said detecting means activating said indicator when said base unit and said remote unit have been
10 moved apart beyond said particular distance.

55. The apparatus of claim 54 wherein said indicator comprises a self-powered siren.

